

## REMARKS

In the Office Action mailed September 21, 2004, the Examiner rejected claims 1 and 2 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Japanese Publication 404303075 (hereinafter “‘075”); and objected to claims 3 and 4 as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but containing allowable subject matter.

The Examiner asserts that ‘075 teaches the features of claims 1 and 2. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection for the following reasons. Claim 1 recites “a reinforcing member coupled with said fender apron upper panel, fender apron inner panel, and front side member”. The Examiner asserts that element 29 is such an reinforcing member. However, the element 29 of ‘075 is coupled to element 22 and to element 21 but not to element 20. Accordingly, ‘075 does not show the recited features of claim 1 and the rejection should be withdrawn. The ‘075 invention lacks the strength of the present invention by not coupling to all three. Because the claimed features recited in claim 1 are not disclosed by ‘075 then the claims which depend from claim 1 are also not disclosed by ‘075. Accordingly the rejection of claim 2 should also be withdrawn.

In view of the foregoing remarks and amendments, it is believed that the application as a whole is in form for allowance. Should the Examiner have any continuing objections, the Examiner is respectfully asked to contact the undersigned at 415-442-1447 in order to expedite allowance of the case. Authorization is granted to charge any outstanding fees due at this time for the continued prosecution of this matter to Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP Deposit Account No. 50-0310 (matter no. 060945-0111).

Date December 21, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

  
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Robert S. Hauser 37,847  
(Reg. No.)  
for  
Thomas D. Kohler  
MORGAN, LEWIS & BOCKIUS LLP  
Two Palo Alto Square  
3000 El Camino Real  
Palo Alto, CA 94306  
(415) 442-1106